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ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950

DALKEITH PRESS LTD., KETTERING

Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Mr. A. Clipstone (*Chairman*).

Messrs. S. B. Kimbell, F. T. Lee, T. Nichols and F. J. W. West.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Cert.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.

July, 1951.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1950.

The health of the district appears to be satisfactory as judged from the death rate, infantile mortality rate and the incidence of infectious diseases.

The decline in the birth rate from 103 in 1946 was accelerated during the year when only 50 live births were registered.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Area (acres)	3638	3638	3638	3638	3638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4629	4747	4685	4677	4671
Number of Live Births	103	91	72	75	50
Legitimate	96	85	69	73	48
Illegitimate	7	6	3	2	2
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	22.25	19.17	15.36	16.03	10.70
Number of Still Births	3	—	2	1	2
Legitimate	3	—	2	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	28.03	—	27.02	13.15	38.46
Rate per 1,000 population	0.64	—	0.42	0.21	0.42
Number of Deaths	54	51	76	54	61
Death rate per 1,000 population for 1950 (corrected)	11.66	10.74	14.08	9.80	11.09
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	29.12	21.97	27.77	40.00	20.00
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	—	—	—
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	5	1	1
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	3	1	1
Deaths from Malignant neoplasms ...	9	4	9	7	8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	1	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's Figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1950

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Polio- myelitis and Polio- encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.36	0.10	—	0.02	0.46	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.42	0.09	—	0.02	0.49	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000 — 50,000	16.7	0.38	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.33	0.10	—	0.02	0.45	1.6	29.4
London	17.8	0.36	11.8	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.39	0.07	—	0.01	0.48	1.0	16.3
Rothwell													
Urban District	11.44	0.42	11.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.42	—	0.00	0.21	0.00	20.0
The Maternal Mortality rates for :													
England and Wales per 1,000 Total (live and still) births...	...	...	...	...	0.09	0.09	0.05	0.54		0.03		0.13	0.86
Rothwell Urban District ...	...	...	...	...	nil	nil	nil	nil		nil		nil	nil

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,671
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Book.	1,512
Rateable Value	£20,181
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£75

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—
Boot and Shoe manufacture, ironstone mining and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	48	24	24
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	50	24	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 10.70

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	2	1	1

DEATHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	61	38	23

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (crude) 13.05

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected) 11.09

Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion —

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 20

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 20.83

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... —

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) —

Deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea (under two years of age) —

Deaths from malignant neoplasms 8

Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... —

Deaths—Comparability factor for 1950 was 0.85. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1950 was 13.05 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.85 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death-rate of 11.09. This death rate of 11.09 is the rate which it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Live Birth Rates for 1950

A comparability factor has been issued for 1950 by the Registrar-General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Rothwell and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	10.70
Rothwell corrected by comparability factor 1.07	...	...	...	...	11.44
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.8

Infantile Mortality Rates 1950

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	20.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	29.8

The causes of death in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of death</i>
7 weeks	M.	Acute Tracheitis (influenzal).

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	38	23	61
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	6	9	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	5	2	7

19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	—	1
20.	Other heart diseases	... ..	4	5	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	... ..	2	—	2
22.	Influenza	... ..	2	—	2
23.	Pneumonia	... ..	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	... ..	4	1	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	... ..	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	... ..	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		3	2	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	... ..	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	... ..	1	—	1
35.	Suicide	... ..	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—No bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton during the year 1950.

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulance services from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the home**—From the 5th July, 1948 the County Council became responsible for Home Nursing Service. Details of the work carried out during 1950 are as follows :—

<i>Cases Nursed—</i>			<i>Total</i>
General	Midwifery	Maternity	<i>Visits</i>
178	24	7	2,825

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The treatment of tuberculosis and Venereal Disease passed to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from nine months to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1950 is as follows:

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	47
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	—
					—
TOTAL				...	47
					—
Boosters	...	...	...	...	12

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation is as follows :—

Age at 31.12.50.	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
	4	36	32	39	59
Age at 31.12.50	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15		
i.e. Born in Year	1941-45	1936-40			
	276	326	772		
Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 0 - 4 years					378
Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 5 to 14 years					596

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary	7	4	1	5	17
Re-Vaccination ...	—	—	1	3	4

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

Water Supply.—The management of the Waterworks, supply and distribution was finally taken over by the Mid-Northants Water Board on the 1st October, 1950.

Supervision and maintenance of this service is now carried out directly by the former officers and staff of the Kettering Borough Water Department.

There was an abundant supply up to June, when the flow rapidly diminished and it was found necessary to open up the Harrington main.

Yield and Consumption—Main Source

			<i>Yield</i>	<i>Consumption</i>
January	...	...	7,148,000 gallons	2,887,000 gallons
February	...	...	9,090,000 „	2,651,000 „
March	...	...	7,830,000 „	2,970,000 „
April	...	...	4,888,000 „	2,909,000 „
May	...	...	6,076,000 „	3,135,000 „
June	...	...	4,484,000 „	3,421,000 „
July ...	...	...	3,732,000 „	3,047,000 „
August	...	...	2,966,000 „	2,761,000 „
September	...	...	2,527,000 „	2,596,000 „
			48,741,000 gallons	26,377,000 gallons

The rainfall during 1950 was 25.58 inches, which was approximately 2.0 inches more than in 1949, but 3.0 inches less than 1948.

1950	...	25.58 ins.	1945	...	20.83 ins.
1949	...	23.72 ins.	1944	...	21.94 ins.
1948	...	28.77 ins.	1943	...	19.24 ins.
1947	...	21.21 ins.	1942	...	20.51 ins.
1946	...	25.94 ins.	1941	...	25.80 ins.

Water Analysis.—Four samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for analysis with the following results : 3 were “Very Satisfactory” and the fourth, a sample from the Harrington supply, was “Satisfactory.”

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewers.—No extensions have been made to the sewerage system during the year, but numerous connections have been made to the Daisy Bank Avenue sewer from the new Council houses.

The Harrington Road sewer from High Hill Avenue onwards found to be heavily silted up owing to a number of contributory causes including its lack of fall ; the small quantity of flow being insufficient to give a scouring action ; and an obstruction which held up the sewage, causing silting. Sewer dredging equipment was obtained and the whole length was dredged clear of silt. To assist in this operation it was found necessary to insert a new inspection chamber in the top length of sewer at the site of the obstruction.

Sewage Disposal Works.—The disposal plant continues to work efficiently in spite of the growing amount of sewage and storm water, which has been excessively heavy during the wet weather, and is producing a clear final effluent. The lack of sufficient sludge drying space and the wet summer and winter caused some embarrassment in the drying of sludge, but the new lagoon now completed should obviate this difficulty.

Sewage Effluent Analysis.—A sample of the final effluent from the Sewage Disposal plant was submitted to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. The Analyst’s Report shows that the effluent is satisfactory and an improvement upon the last analysis.

ANALYST’S REPORT—				PREVIOUS REPORT—			
Solids in Suspension	1.5	parts per 100,000		2.5	parts per 100,000		
Nitrates	1.43	„ „ „		3.33	„ „ „		
Oxygen absorbed :							
at 80°C in 4 hours	0.604	„ „ „		1.77	„ „ „		
at 18°C in 5 days	1.040	„ „ „		1.96	„ „ „		

“This effluent complies with the Recommended Standards for solids in suspension and the five days B.O.D. tests.” (2nd Nov., 1950).

Sanitary Conveniences.—A number of sanitary conveniences at public houses, schools and factories were reconstructed and modernised during the year to replace insanitary or insufficient accommodation.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Inspections

Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	305
Nuisance Inspections	...	...	...	...	119
Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	186
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	15
Food Shops Inspections	...	...	...	...	19
Food Warehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	4
School Canteen Inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Rodent Infestations	...	...	...	...	25
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	113
Housing Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	194

Number of Notices Served

INFORMAL	Nuisances	...	...	...	10
	Housing	...	...	...	nil
STATUTORY	Nuisances	...	...	...	3

Public Cleansing.—The weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained excepting for holiday periods, although the increasing number of bins from the new housing sites and the longer journey to the new tip three times daily have caused collections to be continued on most Saturday mornings.

The Karrier Bantam continued to give good service throughout the year, and has now covered 8,000 miles with an average of 70 miles per week.

Thorpe Underwood Lane Controlled Tip.—The former ironstone quarry at Thorpe Underwood purchased by the Council was opened for the “controlled tipping” of refuse on 1st April, 1950. A hard road down to the quarry was laid, and thence continued by laying sleepers on the tipped refuse to gain a gentle slope into the quarry. In accordance with the Ministry of Health Recommendation on Controlled Tipping, the refuse is laid in not more than 6 feet layers and covered with soil from the bank of quarry spoil. This method reduced the possibilities of nuisances caused by vermin, insects and foul odours emanating from the decomposing refuse. The hot sultry weather of July, aggravated by the content of greenstuffs and lack of ashes in the refuse caused a fly nuisance which was held in check by spreading Gammexane powder on the newly tipped refuse. An infestation of rats occurred towards the end of the year ; presumably the rats came from adjoining agricultural lands to make their winter quarters near to an abundant supply of food found in the refuse. Two treatments were carried out using fish meal baits and poisoning with Zinc-phosphide, and although few bodies were recovered it was evident that there was less activity and fewer rat holes in the bankings after each treatment.

Salvage Collection.—An increase of nearly 3 tons of waste paper was collected and sold over the previous year, which is a credit to your collectors for their steady persuasion of the householders to keep their salvage separate and to refrain from depositing in the dust-bins. It also shows that the public remains salvage conscious and is willing to co-operate in this invaluable service. You were fortunate in that the Contract with the Thames Board Mills Company was honoured by them and that they accepted without question all the waste paper collected, during a difficult year for them when they were at times over stocked with waste paper. Many authorities were unable to dispose of waste paper at any price and found it necessary to discontinue collections, making it rather difficult to reinstitute the service when the demand for waste paper became of National importance once more.

The price of waste paper fluctuated during the year with the demand from £5. 0s. 0d. to £7. 0s. 0d. per ton. A total of £291. 2s. 3d. was received for waste paper during the period which shows the value of this service.

Annual Tonnages—				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1946 ...	...	...		33	4	2
1947 ...	...	...		22	18	0
1948 ...	...	...		52	9	1
1949 ...	...	...		51	15	1
1950 ...	...	...		54	0	1

Public Swimming Bath.—A wet cold summer giving no inducement to open air bathing except for the hardiest of bathers, was reflected in the great reduction in the number of bathers as compared with the previous year. The bath water was kept fresh throughout the summer and treated daily with chlorine to keep it clean and free from impurities.

Frequent Orthotolidine tests were made to obtain an average residual chlorine content 1 part per million, which causes no discomfort to the bathers.

I must pay tribute to Mr. R. Cross for the efficient way he carries out the duties of Bath Attendant ; for his keen and patient enthusiasm through a difficult and disappointing season. He was assisted by Mr. J. Chandler, who attended during the school holidays.

Between June and September, the following bathers paid for admission to the bath :—

Boys	940	Girls	688	
Men	253	Women	68	TOTAL 1947.
(Total for 1949 was 4291).				

Rodent Control.—25 infestations of Rats were successfully dealt with by your Rodent Operator, mostly at piggeries and under poultry huts. 55 bodies were found after treatment, and many more would die in their holes and runs.

12 manholes were test baited but no evidence of infestations were found.

Inspection of Factories was carried out on eight occasions, five defects were ascertained, and all were remedied by the end of the year.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and Foods.—Fewer cottagers' pigs were slaughtered during the year, but the health of these animals remains very high since no carcase or organ was found affected with any form of disease which would render the flesh unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption, consequently were surrendered and destroyed :-

Bacon (Polish)	26 lbs.	Canned Milk	32 lbs.
Canned Pork	2 lbs.	Canned Peaches	14 lbs.
Canned Plums	16 lbs.	Canned Salmon	5 lbs.
Canned Peas	13 lbs.	Canned Meat	4 lbs.
		Cheese ...	5½ lbs.

Milk Samples.—32 samples of milk taken from milk vendors in the area were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service and examined for keeping quality, and tested by the Methylene Blue reduction test with the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	28
Moderate	...	...	2
Bad	...	...	2
			—
			32
			—

Bakehouses.—The bakehouses were inspected on four occasions and found to be satisfactory.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

The evidence of infectious diseases remained low throughout the year. One case of Poliomyelitis was notified. The child was nursed at home and recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1950.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Five cases of respiratory and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1950 was 31 of which 24 were suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1950

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTALS	—	6	2	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	14

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1950

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	1	3	1	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	14	2	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1950

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	—	1	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1950

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	—

